

FEBRUARY 2025



MR. AMICK TEELUCKDHARRY

Head of the Taxpayer Education and
Communication Department (TECD)
Mauritius Revenue Authority

TAX COMMUNICATORS AND JOURNALISTS MEET IN BURKINA FASO

Initial of DTA Convention between
Mauritius and the Kingdom of the
Netherlands, in respect of Curaçao



Mr. Faisal Oozeerally
Director, Large Taxpayers
Department and
International Tax Section,
MRA

Mrs. Germaine Rekwest
Curaçao Ministry of
Finance's Head of Tax
Treaty Negotiations

ATAF Media Workshop
in Burkina Faso

International Tax
Cooperation

Monitoring and Evaluation
Assessment In Mauritius

Modernising Investigative
Processes at MRA

Financial Assistance to
Employers

Communicators from
Revenue Authorities and
Tax Journalists Engage in
Strategic Dialogue

Consensus on all articles
for a Double Taxation
Avoidance Convention
(DTAC)

ATAF commends
MRA for its sustained
collaboration

Use of Data Analytics
and Business
Intelligence Solutions

9,808 Applications
received by the end of
February

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Tax Education in Schools

MRA in the Media

Strengthening Border
Protection

DID YOU KNOW?

MRA engaged 12,000
students over five years

Radio/ TV
Programmes

MRA pursues its fight
against drugs

Deadline for Extension:
Filing of Returns/
Statements & Payment of
Income Tax, Vat, PAYE and
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EDITORIAL NOTE

“Meaningful engagement is not just a strategy—it is a mindset rooted in shared responsibility.”

Dear Readers,

In February, MRA had the privilege of participating in a remarkable workshop organized by the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) in Burkina Faso. The event, entitled ***African Tax Administration Communicators and Tax Journalists Engagement*** brought together communicators from revenue authorities and tax journalists from across Africa. The goal? Strengthen collaboration and foster networks that can better educate taxpayers and promote voluntary compliance. A key insight that emerged was that meaningful engagement is not just a strategy—it is a mindset rooted in shared responsibility.

At MRA, we speak often about Taxpayer Engagement and Employee Engagement, but we are also actively nurturing a third pillar: Engagement with the media, particularly with tax journalists. Through open dialogue, mutual understanding, and continuous collaboration, we aim to consolidate our working relationship with these key stakeholders. Together, we play a vital role in shaping public perception, building trust, and contributing to nation building through an informed citizenry.

As mentors, we often say: to be engaged is to be present, to care, and to be committed. Whether you are a frontline officer, a team leader, a communicator, or a journalist, true engagement transforms tasks into missions. It must be driven by core values: integrity, fairness, transparency, responsiveness, and respect—for our mission, for each other, and for the public we serve.

Engagement also transcends the workplace. When we are fully involved with our families, communities, and social circles, we cultivate empathy, balance, and emotional intelligence—all of which enrich our performance at work. Strong personal connections support our well-being, energise our spirit, and enable us to approach professional challenges with resilience and purpose.

Let us continue to engage with conviction. It is only through united, values-driven engagement—across all spheres of life—that we can truly move forward as Partners in Progress.

Sincerely,

Editorial team

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ATAF MEDIA WORKSHOP IN BURKINA FASO

COMMUNICATORS FROM REVENUE AUTHORITIES AND TAX JOURNALISTS ENGAGE IN STRATEGIC DIALOGUE



Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso - The African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) brought together tax communicators and media professionals for a landmark workshop entitled **African Tax Administration Communicators and Tax Journalists Engagement**, held on 11-12 February 2025. Hosted by the Direction Générale des Impôts (DGI) of Burkina Faso, the event aimed to strengthen the partnership between African tax administrations and the media in fostering greater transparency and taxpayer trust.

The interactive workshop drew participation from communicators representing 15 ATAF member countries and 26 journalists from the African Tax Media Network (ATMeN), covering 20 nations across the continent.

Representing Mauritius, Mr. Amick Teeluckdharry, Head of the Taxpayer Education and Communication Department (TECD) at the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), showcased Mauritius' pioneering initiatives in tax communication and media engagement.

Mauritius Sets the Benchmark in Media Engagement

Addressing the audience, Mr. Teeluckdharry elaborated on the proactive measures taken by the MRA to establish robust ties with the media. He emphasized that the MRA views all stakeholders – including journalists – as strategic partners in shaping a tax-compliant society.

"The media plays a pivotal role in demystifying taxation," he said. "At the MRA, we are committed to empowering the press with accurate, timely, and transparent information to foster trust and voluntary compliance", Mr. Teeluckdharry emphasized.



Mr. Amick Teeluckdharry, Head of the Taxpayer Education and Communication Department (TECD), MRA

MRA's Media Engagement Strategy: A Multifaceted Approach

The MRA has institutionalized a comprehensive media engagement strategy to ensure that tax-related matters are clearly and accurately communicated to the public. Key pillars of this strategy include:

1. Press Conferences and Media Briefings

Regular briefings are held to inform journalists about tax policies, enforcement actions, and budget measures. Senior MRA officials engage directly with the press to address queries and clarify complex issues.

2. Collaboration with Print and Digital Media

Articles, interviews, and special supplements are routinely published in leading newspapers and news portals, making tax matters more accessible to citizens.

3. Television and Radio Outreach

Through partnerships with the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) and private stations, the MRA runs educational programs, expert panels, and Q&A sessions during peak tax periods – and beyond.

4. Timely Press Communiqués

MRA regularly issues press releases and communiqués to announce deadlines, enforcement actions, and tax updates, shared with major media platforms for maximum reach.

5. Social Media Engagement

Active on platforms such as Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter, the MRA disseminates user-friendly content including videos, infographics, and interactive posts to boost taxpayer understanding.

6. Collaborative Awareness Campaigns

The MRA partners with media houses to run nationwide campaigns on key themes like VAT refunds, e-filing, and combating tax fraud.

7. Professional Media Handling

A dedicated communication team ensures prompt and professional responses to media queries, including facilitating interviews with MRA leadership.

8. Transparency through Media

The MRA publicly shares information on tax fraud prosecutions and enforcement actions, reinforcing public confidence and acting as a deterrent.

9. Influencer and Analyst Engagement

Business journalists, financial analysts, and influencers are key allies in spreading informed tax messages.

10. Training for Journalists

Plans are underway to launch dedicated workshops for journalists to enhance their understanding of taxation systems and reporting accuracy.



Mr. Eugene Southgate
ATAF Head: Corporate Services

“ It's critical that communicators and journalists attend events such as the ATAF Annual Meetings and the African Tax Research Network Congress. ”



A Culture of Proactivity: The MRA Way

Mauritius' standing as one of Africa's leading revenue administrations is no accident. Guided by a forward-thinking vision and inspired by the Three Box Solution – managing the present effectively, selectively forgetting the past, and preparing for the future today – MRA has implemented transformative changes across its operations.

A Trusted Partner in Progress

MRA's robust communication strategy reflects its unwavering commitment to transparency, innovation, and service excellence. Its presence at the Burkina Faso workshop reaffirmed the Authority's leadership in shaping a tax-compliant, well-informed citizenry through strategic media collaboration.

As Mr. Teeluckdharry aptly concluded, *"Communication is no longer just about visibility. It's about accountability, empowerment, and shared responsibility."*

Highlights of MRA's Proactive Initiatives:

1. Digital Transformation

- Over 98% of taxpayers file electronically.
- Mobile-friendly platforms and AI-powered analytics have improved risk profiling and reduced compliance costs.

2. Taxpayer Engagement & Education

- Tax Clubs in schools foster early tax literacy.
- The Taxpayer Satisfaction Survey drives continuous service improvements.
- Digital outreach and partnerships educate businesses and individuals alike.

3. Advanced Compliance Strategies

- Real-time invoice monitoring through e-Invoicing.
- AI-powered audits targeting high-risk profiles.
- Simplified regimes for SMEs and behavioral science-driven messaging.

4. Combatting Tax Evasion

- Strong adherence to OECD standards, including BEPS and CRS.
- Whistleblower incentives and financial sector collaboration bolster enforcement.

5. Policy Reforms & Innovation

- Introduction of pre-filled tax returns and e-commerce taxation frameworks.
- Sector-specific incentives and streamlined Customs procedures.

6. Regional & International Engagement

- Leadership in ATAF, CATA, and OECD forums.
- Regional tax treaty negotiations and collaborative knowledge-sharing.

7. Revenue Growth & Forecasting

- MRA continues to surpass revenue targets.
- Predictive analytics enhance forecasting and strategic planning.



INTERNATIONAL TAX COOPERATION

CONSENSUS ON ALL ARTICLES FOR A DOUBLE TAXATION AVOIDANCE CONVENTION (DTAC)



The Republic of Mauritius and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, in respect of Curaçao, engaged in constructive negotiations for a Double Taxation Avoidance Convention from February 3 to February 5, 2025. The discussions took place at the seat of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), Eham Court, Port-Louis, unfolded in a friendly and cordial environment, reflecting a shared commitment to mutual understanding and partnership.

Conclusion of negotiations

During this collaborative dialogue, the Republic of Mauritius and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, in respect of Curaçao, explored various provisions to effectively address issues of taxation and promote mutual benefits for their economies. Consensus was reached on all articles of the DTAC, leading both delegations to initial the final document.

The Mauritian delegation was led by Mr. Faisal Oozeerally, Director of the Large Taxpayers Department and International Tax Section, MRA, accompanied by Mr. Rajeshsharma Ramlool, SC, Solicitor General from the Attorney General's office, Mr. Javed Suhootoorah, Director, Economic and Finance, Ministry of Finance, and other officials from various ministries, while Mrs. Germaine Rekwest headed the Curaçao delegation as the Ministry of Finance's Head of Tax Treaty Negotiations.

As of now, Mauritius has concluded 46 tax treaties known as Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs). For more information, please visit MRA website: www.mra.mu



On February 4, 2025, the Curaçao delegation paid a courtesy call on Mr. M. Sudhamo Lal, G.O.S.K, C.S.K, Director-General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA).

The visit facilitated a cordial discussion on the tax regimes of both Mauritius and Curaçao. This collaborative effort is expected to enhance trade and investment opportunities, strengthening the economic relationship between the two nations.



MONITORING AND EVALUATION ASSESSMENT IN MAURITIUS

ATAF COMMENDS MRA FOR ITS SUSTAINED COLLABORATION

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) and the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) pursue their collaboration to enhance tax administration across the region. In this context, MRA welcomed Ms. Susan Nakato, ATAF's Manager of Strategy Planning, Information Management, and Reporting, at the Head Office of the Mauritius Revenue Authority from February 19 to February 21, 2025.

Ms. Nakato praised MRA for its innovative strategies in effective revenue administration and its unwavering commitment to sustainable capacity-building programmes. *"The dedication of MRA to pursuing its capacity-building objectives is truly commendable. By investing in human capital, MRA is promoting a culture of continuous learning, which is essential for maintaining a resilient tax system,"* Ms. Nakato stated.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Assessment, conducted across nine ATAF member countries, including Mauritius, plays a vital role in gauging the impact of ATAF's training programmes and technical assistance initiatives, among others. On this score, Ms. Nakato highlighted ATAF's mission to boost cooperation and enhance capacity among African tax administrations, emphasizing key areas of focus such as the ATAF Tax Academy, technical support for cross-border taxation and the vital exchange of information.

Ms. Nakato actively engaged with senior officers and Directors of MRA through working sessions designed to identify strategies for strengthening future capacity-building programmes.

As Ms. Nakato reiterated, the collaborative efforts between ATAF and MRA not only aim to improve tax governance but also highlight the importance of constructive discussion in enhancing efficient tax systems.

On February 21, 2025, Ms. Nakato paid a courtesy call on Mr. Sudhamo Lal, Director-General of MRA. This exchange proved to be both enriching and insightful, reinforcing the sustained commitment of MRA and ATAF to improving tax efficiency across the African continent.



ATAF

Since its inception in 2009, ATAF has been tirelessly working to empower its 44-member nations through enhanced transparency and efficiency in tax collection systems. ATAF's mission is to enhance transparent and robust tax systems, which are fundamental to achieving financial autonomy and socio-economic progress on the African continent. Guided by a strategic framework spanning 2023-2027, which prioritizes regionalization, data-driven insights, and financial sustainability, ATAF is poised to propel African countries towards resilient and effective fiscal administrations. By leveraging these strategic foundations, ATAF seeks to not only enhance tax revenue collection but also promote a culture of accountability, good governance, and economic development.

TAX ADMINISTRATION DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENT TOOL (TADAT)

MRA RECOGNIZED AMONG THE WORLD'S BEST PRACTICES

In 2017, MRA distinguished itself on the global stage by being rated as one of the top tax administrations according to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Tax Administration Diagnostic Assessment Tool (TADAT). This recognition underscores MRA's commitment to efficient tax collection and robust fiscal governance.

The TADAT assessment provides a rigorous, objective, and standardized framework for evaluating a country's tax administration system. It is specifically structured to focus on nine key performance outcome areas, which are critical for measuring the effectiveness of tax systems. These areas are assessed through 26 high-level indicators, each meticulously crafted through 52 measurement dimensions. This comprehensive approach allows for a thorough analysis, while remaining manageable for implementation.

MODERNISING INVESTIGATIVE PROCESSES AT MRA

USE OF DATA ANALYTICS AND BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE SOLUTIONS



In a transformative move to modernize investigative processes, the Fiscal Investigation Department (FID) has adopted **Data Analytics and Business Intelligence Solutions (DABS)**, facilitating a nearly paperless environment for handling investigations. With the implementation of TeamMate+, all officers are now required to document their work and findings electronically on a streamlined online platform.

The shift towards digital documentation represents a significant leap in efficiency for FID. Prior to the adoption of DABS, officers faced a daunting task during preliminary inquiries and investigation planning, which involved extensive data gathering from a multitude of reports. The challenges of retrieving and presenting data for thorough analysis often resulted in time-consuming processes, exacerbated by the lack of standardization in preliminary inquiry protocols.

As the volume of data required for tax investigations has surged in recent years, the need for an efficient and effective solution became increasingly apparent. To address these pressing issues, FID developed DABS; a sophisticated MS Excel application tool designed to revolutionize how tax investigators interact with data. Utilizing advanced Excel functionalities such as formulas, conditional formatting, Visual Basic for Applications (VBA), and macros, DABS converts data gathered from diverse sources such as ITAS, BI Launch Pad, CBRIS, and the Registrar General into a format ready for analysis.

All staff within FID have undergone comprehensive training in utilizing DABS, ensuring that all preliminary inquiries and investigations are now standardized, and efficiently prepared.

The implementation of **DABS** has yielded significant improvements across various facets of the investigative process:

- 1. Standardization of Processes:** The procedures for conducting preliminary inquiries and creating investigation plans are now uniform, enhancing consistency across the department.
- 2. Automated Data Analysis:** Data formatting and analysis are conducted through automated functionalities, improving data integrity and allowing investigators to devote more time to critical decision-making and documentation of findings.
- 3. Streamlined Training for New Officers:** With clear guidance on relevant tax laws and analytical processes embedded within DABS, the training time for new FID officers has been significantly reduced.
- 4. Enhanced Monitoring Tools:** DABS includes comprehensive dashboards that enable officers and their supervisors to effectively monitor the completeness and accuracy of preliminary inquiries and investigation plans.
- 5. Accelerated Preparation of Investigation Plans:** The tool greatly expedites the development of preliminary inquiry and investigation plans, ensuring comprehensive data retrieval and analysis, ultimately leading to improved investigation quality.

By improving operational efficiency, FID is well-positioned to contribute to a more robust and effective revenue collection system for Mauritius. This innovative approach marks a significant step forward in tax investigation, aligning MRA with international best practices and reinforcing its commitment to exceptional public service in tax administration.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO EMPLOYERS

9,808 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE END OF FEBRUARY

► Special Allowance 2024



The Government of Mauritius has entrusted the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) with the responsibility of processing the payment of financial assistance to employers for the Payment of Special Allowance 2024 (14th month bonus). As of the current date, a total of 9,808 applications have been received, and 6,117 employers have successfully been paid. The total amount exceeds Rs. 511 Million.

To avail themselves of this facility, eligible employers are required to apply for financial support and subsequently submit a Special Allowance 2024 Return through MRA website: www.mra.mu. Employers must use their Employer Registration Number (ERN) and Password to access the online system put in place by MRA. Once the application and the Special Allowance 2024 Return are processed, the financial assistance will be credited directly to the employer's bank account, as provided by the respective companies.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Initially, the Special Allowance 2024 was available to the Export-Oriented Enterprises (EOEs) and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). However, following a recent amendment to the legislation, it has been extended to a wider range of organizations, including charitable organizations, and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) registered with the National Social Inclusion Foundation, registered religious bodies, trade unions, and businesses in certain sectors.

Businesses with a turnover of up to Rs 750 million in the 2023/2024 assessment year, particularly those in Business Process Outsourcing (BPO), security or cleaning services and construction can also apply for this financial assistance.

The financial assistance will cover the full amount of the Special Allowance if the employer has an accounting loss, or if their accounting profit drops by more than 50% due to increases in the National Minimum Wage, Salary Compensation 2024, (net of any financial assistance payable), and the Special Allowance are deducted therefrom.

For businesses whose accounting profit decreases by more than 10% but less than 50%, assistance will cover 50% of the Special Allowance paid to employees. The financial assistance is available in respect of full-time employees.

SUPPORT SERVICES

- Eligible employers who are unable to submit their application for the Special Allowance are kindly invited to send an email on fsu@mra.mu.
- MRA Help Desk, reachable on 207 6000, is available during office hours from 08:45 to 16:30 on working days to assist employers effectively.



TAX EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

MRA ENGAGED 12,000 STUDENTS OVER FIVE YEARS

Educating the younger generation about taxation is essential, as today's students are the future taxpayers of the nation. With this vision in mind, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) has engaged approximately 12,000 students in tax sensitization programs, over the past five years.

For the month of February, 14 Educational Sessions have been organized at the colleges mentioned above:

- i. Mahatma Gandhi Institute (Mixed)
- ii. Shrimati Indira Gandhi SSS (Boys)
- iii. Seewa Bappoo SSS (Girls)
- iv. MGSS (Mixed), Nouvelle France
- v. Dr. O Regis Chaperon SSS (Boys)
- vi. Gaetan Raynal College
- vii. Forest Side SSS Boys
- viii. Palma SSS (Boys)
- ix. Forest Side SSS Girls
- x. Bhojoharry College - Quartier Militaire
- xi. Renaissance College
- xii. MGSS, Vacoas
- xiii. Sodnac SSS
- xiv. Vacoas SSS

Should any other school be interested in participating in MRA Educational Session, kindly email us at tecd@mra.mu



SAVE THE DATE

Educational tour at the Integrated Customs Clearance Centre (ICCC) on the 7th of March 2025



The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) will organize an educational tour at the Integrated Customs Clearance Centre (ICCC) in Plaine Magnien on March 7, 2025. 200 students from Loreto College, Rose-Hill, St. Joseph College, and West Coast International Secondary School are expected to attend. The educational tour will feature a presentation on the importance of taxation and customs in Mauritius, along with a live demonstration by the Customs K9 Unit, showcasing how specially trained dogs identify prohibited items, drugs, and currency.

MRA in the Media

RADIO/ TV PROGRAMMES



The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) has taken a proactive approach to address public queries and concerns through popular communication channels such as radio and television. By leveraging these platforms, MRA aims to enhance taxpayer education, improve compliance, and promote public trust in the authority.

During the month of February, MRA conducted a series of informative programmes across Mauritius and Rodrigues. Topics covered in these programmes ranged from financial assistance schemes to tax-related matters, providing valuable insights to the public. Through these initiatives, MRA continues to engage with the community, address their concerns, and promote a culture of transparency and compliance.

A series of videos on the different aspects of taxation is available on the [MRA website](#) and [MRA YouTube Channel](#).

Month of January 2025

Mauritius

52 Radio interventions

18 "One minute radio Programmes" broadcast on Kool FM and MBC Radio.

1 TV intervention

Rodrigues

18 "One minute radio Programmes" on Rodrigues FM

STRENGTHENING BORDER PROTECTION

MRA PURSUES ITS FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS



In February 2025, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) reported a significant series of drug seizures, underscoring the ongoing fight against narcotics trafficking in the country.

MRA seized synthetic cannabinoids valued at Rs. 744,750, along with cannabis and hashish worth Rs. 3.1 million. Additionally, a cocaine seizure at SSR International Airport was estimated at approximately Rs. 17.1 million.

MRA also seized synthetic drug with a market value of Rs. 45 million and 55 kg of cannabis valued at Rs. 66 million.

Members of the public are reminded that they may report suspected drug cases/ illicit activities to MRA through MRA Stop Drug Platform (www.mra.mu) or by calling on the Hotline 8958.





DID YOU Know?

INTERESTING FACT

DEADLINEFOREXTENSION:

FILING OF RETURNS / STATEMENTS & PAYMENT OF INCOME TAX, VAT, PAYE AND SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) has extended the deadline for filing tax returns and making payments for income tax, Value Added Tax (VAT), Pay As You Earn (PAYE), and Social Contributions (CSG) due to Cyclone Garance.

Taxpayers and employers who cannot meet the

original deadline of February 28, 2025, will not face penalties, interest, or extra charges if they submit their returns and payments by Monday, March 3, 2025.

This extension is intended to help ensure that all taxpayers can file their returns and make necessary payments on time without incurring fees.



COMMUNIQUE

FILING OF RETURNS & STATEMENTS & PAYMENT OF INCOME TAX, VAT, PAYE AND SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) informs the public that, due to disruptions caused by cyclone Garance, no penalties, interests or surcharges will be applied to taxpayers and employers who have been unable to submit returns/statements or to pay the tax/contributions payable by the due date of 28 February 2025, provided such returns/statements are submitted and the tax/contributions are paid on or before **Monday 3 March 2025**.

For further information, kindly visit MRA website: www.mra.mu, or phone MRA helpdesk on 207 6000 during working hours.



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